*WASHINGTON, DC*-Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23), a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, today announced the passage of comprehensive energy legislation which will lower energy costs to consumers and American taxpayers, will invest in renewable energy sources to create American jobs, open up more areas for drilling than ever before, and create greater energy efficiency and conservation.

"I commend Congress for its bipartisan recognition that expanded offshore development in the United States is essential to America's energy future," Congressman Rodriguez said. "This is a good first step that will yield benefits to the American people. This is a bipartisan compromise bill that while not perfect, sets us on our way to lowering gas prices and energy independence."

Among its provisions, the Comprehensive American Energy Security & Consumer Protection Act will responsibly expand domestic drilling both offshore and on land; invest in wind, solar and natural gas, which will create millions of American jobs; end subsidies to the five Big Oil companies; strengthen incentives for energy efficiency in both commercial and residential buildings and homes; and release oil from the government's stockpile to bring down gas prices.

" This legislation marks a turning in point in American energy policy, " said Congressman Rodriguez. " American consumers and businesses deserve this bill which better addresses both our short-term energy needs as well as our long-term goals. This bill will make our country safer, more secure and less dependent on foreign sources of oil. "

For more information on the Comprehensive American Energy Security & Consumer Protection Act, click here.